

# SUFFICIENCY THINKING IN DEVELOPMENT

## Program Design

### The Institute for Sustainable Leadership,

an Australian research-based entity, has designed the program. The ISL founders, Professors Gayle Avery and Harald Bergsteiner of Macquarie University, recently published the book *Sufficiency Thinking: Thailand's Gift to an Unsustainable World* (Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2016) that presents the results of field work in sufficiency-based development projects and research by Thai academics. The authors are highly familiar with SEP after long experience in working with Thai researchers and development practitioners, many of whom contributed to the book. They have designed and delivered educational programs for governments, non-profits and private businesses.



### Sufficiency Thinking points out that:

“The Thais are serious about a transformation to sufficiency thinking. The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy has been firmly anchored in all five-year national development plans since...2002. ... Sufficiency thinking is intended as a virtues- and science-based decision-making framework or foundation that can be applied [in] all spheres of life. It is underscored by sets of practical work principles that suggest appropriate ways of behaving. Sufficiency thinking further foresees measurable economic, societal, environmental and cultural outputs that are kept in balance. However, the ultimate outcomes envisaged are overall well-being and sustainability, which include being self-reliant, immune to hardships, resilient should hardships occur, adaptable and, above all, happy.”

The book notes that Thailand is “the first country whose government has adopted this kind of thinking as national policy. ... alternative, enlightened and sustainable forms of capitalism already operate in Scandinavian countries, as well as in Germany and Switzerland, providing evidence that Thailand is on the right track. Sufficiency thinking offers further proof that there is an alternative to untempered capitalism, with its myopic and misguided focus on maximising the wealth of a few to the detriment of the majority and the planet itself.”



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## SUFFICIENCY THINKING IN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAM



Institute for Sustainable Leadership  
Building the future's leaders and creating sustainable organizations

## Following its chairmanship of the G-77 in 2015/16, Thailand

is launching a graduate-level training program at Mahidol University, Bangkok in the application of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) in socio-economic development decision-making.

The purpose is to extend the learning that was started during G-77 meetings in 2016. The program offers a broad range of subject matter. The objectives are to:

- Share knowledge and understanding of Thailand's SEP, emphasizing its application in community development and the commercial sector
- Provide participants with the skills to apply and devise a SEP plan to suit local conditions in their home countries
- Promote international networking and support activities among participants.



### The curriculum is designed for the needs of the following kinds of participants:

- Diplomats from G-77 countries, particularly those in positions in supporting policy-making and field implementation of SEP-related development activity
- Senior executives from G-77 government, public, private and non-profit groups
- Australian participants with funding from the new Colombo Plan for short study trips (details at [www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan](http://www.dfat.gov.au/new-colombo-plan))
- Citizens from Europe and specific countries, such as Germany, with exchange of scholarship programs that would fund their participation
- Other interested persons from anywhere in the world.

The initial course offers a five-day program over one week, consisting of half-day informative sessions that are paired with field visits. The course content is designed to encourage reflection on application of the learning in participants' home countries, concluding with an implementation plan for an "action-learning" project. This latter outcome offers potential return on investment for the sponsor of a given participant, such as a G-77 government.

State-of-the-art learning programs incorporate a range of features beyond classroom activities, with some of them incorporated as options here. A process approach is part of the design, starting before the actual program begins and continuing with online learning and activities afterwards. Guest speakers will be invited to present specific topics and coaches will be supplied to delegates where needed. The language of the course will be English; arrangements for interpretation may be possible, according to circumstances.

